

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-13, 22, 26 and 27.

What is claimed is:

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A molded plastics material sample vessel comprising a tubular portion which has a maximum external cross sectional width of 5 millimeters (mm) and an internal sample volume of not more than 100 microliters (μ l) wherein the tubular portion comprises a tubular external wall with a thickness of from 0.01 to 2 mm.

15-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) A molded plastics material sample vessel according to claim 14, wherein the tubular portion:

- has a truncated conical external surface, the angle between a meridian of the truncated conical external surface and the axis of the cone being in the range of from 0.1 degrees to 10 degrees,
- is closed at its narrower end, and
- is open at its wider end.

24. (Original) A molded plastics material sample vessel according to claim 14, further comprising a section of frustoconical shape directly or indirectly adjoining the tubular portion, which section increases in external diameter in the direction away from the tubular portion.

25. (Original) A molded plastics material sample vessel as claimed in claim 14 further comprising a neck portion that includes a cylindrical portion for receiving a closure means.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Original) A molded plastics material sample vessel which comprises a tubular portion having a maximum external cross sectional width of 3 millimeters (mm) and an internal sample volume of not more than 100 microliters (μ l), wherein the tubular portion comprises a tubular external wall with a thickness in the range of from 0.1mm to 0.5mm, and wherein the tubular portion:

- a) has a truncated conical external surface, the angle between a meridian of the truncated conical external surface and the axis of the cone being in the range of from 0.1 degrees to 10 degrees,
- b) is closed at its narrower end, and
- c) is open at its wider end, and

wherein the mean internal cross sectional width of the cavity of the tubular portion is in the range of from 0.5mm to 3mm, wherein the sample tube further comprises a section of frustoconical shape directly or indirectly adjoining the tubular portion, which section increases in external and internal diameter in the direction away from the tubular portion, and wherein the sample vessel is made of a cyclo-olefin copolymer of ethylene and norbornene.